

years, being Rockdale County's first African American Congregation; and

Whereas, Bald Rock has produced many spiritual warriors, people of compassion, people of great courage, fearless leaders and servants to all, but most of all visionaries who have shared not only with their Church, but with Rockdale County their passion to spread the gospel of Jesus Christ; and

Whereas, the U.S. Representative of the Fourth District of Georgia has set aside this day to honor and recognize the Bald Rock Baptist Church family for their leadership and service to our District on this the 150th Anniversary of their founding;

Now therefore, I, HENRY C. "HANK" JOHNSON, Jr. do hereby proclaim November 13, 2011 as Bald Rock Baptist Church Day In the 4th Congressional District of Georgia.

Proclaimed, this 13th day of November, 2011.

HONORING JOHN WILKINSON

HON. JEFF DENHAM

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. DENHAM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Veterans of Foreign Wars Chowchilla Post 9896 Life Member John Wilkinson, who retired from the United States Marine Corps as a Master Sergeant in 1974.

John A. Wilkinson was born in Taft, California in November 1935. During his high school years, John worked during the summer months and after school in the oil fields handling drill toll stabilizers and as a truck driver. In 1953, he enlisted in the United States Marine Corps. During his service in the U.S. Marine Corps, he served on seven aircraft carriers, twelve different shore installations, and duty with all branches of service, as well as Civil Service Personnel. He traveled to twenty foreign countries and saw duty with seven military forces. Throughout his duration of service, John succeeded in many roles. In 1957, he was selected for aviation schooling and completed Aircraft Fundamentals and Jet Engine Mechanics courses and was station at Los Alamitos Naval Air Station where he served as a crew chief performing scheduled and non-scheduled maintenance on all aircraft systems. In 1965, John assumed a two year post as a Drill Instructor at Marine Corps Recruit Depot in San Diego. He was deployed with his unit to Vietnam in 1970 where he served with H&MS-11, which supported Marine aircraft missions fighting the North Vietnamese and Viet Cong forces. Master Sergeant Wilkinson received numerous decorations and awards for his service, including the National Defense Medal, seven awards of the Good Conduct Medal, Vietnamese Service Medal with star, and the Meritorious Unit Commendation.

Upon his retirement from the military, John earned an Associate of Arts Degree from West Hills College and a Bachelor of Art Degree in Social Science and a teaching credential from California State University, Fresno. For thirteen years, John continued his legacy of public service as a civics, economics, and history teacher at Chowchilla Union High School. John and his late wife, Veronica, raised three children. He is now a grandfather

of nine and a great-grandfather of ten. He makes his home in Los Lunas, New Mexico.

Mr. Speaker, please join me in thanking Mr. John A. Wilkinson for his honorable service to our great country, and wishing him the best of luck and health in his future endeavors.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTES FREEDOM SISTER'S TRAVELING EXHIBITION

HON. CHARLES B. RANGEL

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. RANGEL. Mr. Speaker, ahead of tomorrow's announcement, today I rise to recognize the empowering Freedom Sister's Exhibition being showcased in The Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center in my Congressional District. The Exhibition will be officially on display starting February 4 thru April 22, 2012.

Often when the civil rights movement is discussed, male figureheads whose visibility in boycotts, legal proceedings, and mass demonstrations dominated media coverage in the 1950's and '60s are the first memories we recollect. Sometimes missing and often forgotten from these memoirs are a group of extraordinary women who, while less prominent in the media, shaped much of the core and spirit of civil rights movement.

The Freedom Sister's Exhibition shines a light on the many women that at times history seems to overlook. As the Member of Congress whose district encompasses the historical community of Harlem and in response to an overwhelming sentiment from both my local Education and Arts & Culture constituencies, it was enormously important to me that the Smithsonian bring the traveling exhibition to my beloved community. Nine out of the twenty women being paid tribute to, have walked the streets of the great village of Harlem. Constance Baker Motley, Harriet Tubman, Ella Baker, Charlayne Hunter-Gault, Dr. Betty Shabazz, Sonia Sanchez, Mary McLeod Bethune, Shirley Chisholm, and Ida B. Wells all dared to dream the impossible: equality for all.

The exhibition also pays tribute to the success of such notable women as Coretta Scott King, Rosa Parks, Barbara Johnson, Fannie Lou Hamer, Myrlie Evers-Williams, Kathleen Cleaver, Mary Church Terrell, Septima Poinsette Clark, Dorothy Height, and C. Delores Tucker. I cannot stress the importance of such a marvelous showcase of these important women. The Civil rights movement was spearheaded by many exceptional men such as Dr. Martin Luther King Jr. and Malcolm X, but these women among many others also fought for equality with a commitment to strengthen our Nation and making a difference for all Americans.

Let me thank Jacob Morris, Executive Director of the Harlem Historical Society for bringing this great exhibition to my attention through my District Representative, Socrates Solano. According to the information imparted to my office by the Harlem Historical Society, it was my understanding that New York was not initially considered as a venue for this wonderful traveling exhibit's National tour. Let me also thank Zead Ramadan, Chair of the

Malcolm X and Dr. Betty Shabazz Memorial and Educational Center for agreeing to host this truly historic exhibition.

Mr. Speaker, like Harlem, there are those in our country that ardently desire that its sons and daughters as well as our teachers and educators are given the opportunity to appreciate and learn more about these great women of courage who have had such profound historical significance. I ask that you and my distinguished colleagues, with the gratitude of our fellow citizens, join me in commending the Smithsonian Institute for paying tribute to our beloved Freedom Sisters through their traveling exhibition.

TRIBUTE TO JANE AND WILLIAM MCQUAIN AND THE WORK OF THE DWELLING PLACE

HON. CHRIS VAN HOLLEN

OF MARYLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, December 1, 2011

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember two of my constituents whose lives were recently tragically cut short. Ms. Jane McQuain, 51, and her son William, 11, were found murdered on October 18, 2011, triggering shock and pain throughout my congressional district.

Since 2006, Ms. McQuain and William had been receiving assistance from an outstanding organization, The Dwelling Place, whose mission is to provide housing opportunities and support services for homeless families in Montgomery County. The McQuains were one of many families helped by this program.

Ms. McQuain was an extraordinary example of the success that can be achieved through hard work and dedication. In 2006, she came to The Dwelling Place as a homeless single mother, seeking a better life for herself and her son. Two years later, she graduated from the program with permanent housing and a steady job. Ms. McQuain immediately sought to give back to the community and devoted her time to helping families in crisis who were facing similar situations. She often returned to The Dwelling Place to share her experiences and to advise families on how to succeed during and after the program. Her son, William, had a bright future. His friends and family describe him as a vibrant and imaginative boy who loved sports, animals, and video games. Both Ms. McQuain and William were extraordinary individuals, who had successfully overcome great adversity.

The Dwelling Place has been helping the homeless since 1988, when a group of activists, appalled at the rising levels of homelessness in Montgomery County, Maryland, came together to find a solution to this growing problem. The organization incorporates various aspects of affordability, length of stay, and life skills, striving to help homeless families achieve self-sufficiency. Families are assisted to develop the necessary skills they need for a brighter and more prosperous future. The Dwelling Place is not merely a place for families to live; it is a place for families to thrive. It provides families with critical training in parenting, communication literacy, and networking techniques. It also counsels individual families to work towards a strong, united, and independent family unit.